

RESEARCHES IN BINOCULAR VISION. By Kenneth N. Ogle, Ph.D., Section on Biophysical Research; Research Consultant in the Section on Ophthalmology, Mayo Foundation and Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. Illustrated. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1950. 345 pages. \$7.50.

This book is a very able discussion of the basic physiology involved in binocular visual processes by one of the foremost authorities in this field. It is well illustrated with diagrams and contains many graphical summaries of the material presented. It is not easy reading, although this is a fault of the material and not of the author. Much of the material was heretofore available only in the original works of Helmholtz, Hofmann, Bielschowsky, Hering and Tschermak. To this, Dr. Ogle has added the original work of the Dartmouth group—much of it his own.

Although the literature and texts on the anomalies of binocular vision are quite adequate from a clinical point of view, very little is written about the basic physiological principles in normal binocular vision. This book fills that need. Here, for the first time in English, between the covers of a single book, the most pertinent parts of this subject are ably presented by an authority. The text is divided into four parts: The first deals mainly with studies of the horopter and the theory of corresponding retinal points. The second part takes up fusional processes with a discussion of Panum's areas, fixation disparity, peripheral retinal fusion, and cyclo-fusional eye movements. The third part deals mainly with space perception, the induced effect and the changes incident to asymmetrical convergence. Part four is a complete discussion of aniseikonia.

This book will be of little aid to the clinician seeking a brief summary of how best to treat binocular anomalies. However, it will be indispensable to those interested in the physiological processes of binocular vision and is certainly the most complete and authoritative work in this field in recent years.

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METHODS IN MEDICAL RESEARCH—Volume 3. Ralph W. Gerard, Editor-in-Chief. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago, 1950. 312 pages. \$7.00.

CALIFORNIA MEDICINE favorably reviewed the two earlier volumes in this series which is devoted to the exposition of certain methods used in medical research. The present volume appears to rival the first two in quality of its presentations, but the subjects selected seem rather more specialized and likely to interest fewer physicians. The first section deals with methods for the study of the genetics of micro-organisms; it should interest microbiologists, geneticists and biochemists. The second section is concerned with the assay of neurohumors; acetylcholine and the cholinesterases receive much attention, while two chapters describe methods for the estimation of substances liberated by adrenergic nerves and of adrenaline and nor-adrenaline in tissue extracts. The third section discusses selected psychomotor measurement methods, with subdivisions on physical work and strength tests, reaction time, coordinated motor responses, manual dexterity, eye-movement coordinations, and motor tests of laboratory animals. The final section is devoted to methods for the investigation of peptide structure.

As in the earlier volumes, each chapter is written by an authority, although there are fewer comments by others than in the previous books. The methods appear to be given in adequate detail, with appropriate bibliographies, author index and subject index. The book is recommended for purchase by libraries and for perusal by medical and other scientists, a few of whom will wish to have copies in their laboratories or on their desks.

A SYNOPSIS OF OBSTETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY. By Aleck W. Bourne, M.A., B.B., B.Ch. (Camb.), F.R.C.S. (Eng.) F.R.C.O.G., Consulting Obstetric Surgeon, Queen Charlotte's Hospital, London. Tenth Edition. Fully revised. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1949. \$4.50.

Bourne has written a true synopsis of obstetrics and gynecology. There are certain terms, such as auto-intoxication, pelvic presentation and epimenorrhea, which are seldom used in American obstetrical literature. The classification of toxemia is quite different from what we are accustomed. The mortality with a modified Stroganoff regimen, as reported by the London Committee, is considerably higher than reported in this country.

Under abnormal pregnancy treatment of threatened abortion, Antuitrin S in doses of 100 units daily for a week without mentioning the use of corpus luteum or stilbestrol seems inadequate. The treatment of inevitable abortion with intra-uterine glycerine or introduction of tents is seldom if ever practiced in America.

In the synopsis, gynecological anatomy is clear, concise and exceptionally well organized.

There could be no dispute with the management of fibromyomas. It is surprising that no mention is made of carcinoma in situ in the chapter on malignant disease. Particular attention should be called to the excellent outline of etiology, symptoms, and treatment of displaced uteri.

This book fulfills the purposes of the author. It reviews quite thoroughly all phases of obstetrics and gynecology, although there is very little new added to the many fine texts now available.

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THE PROSTATE GLAND. By Herbert R. Kenyon, M.D., Associate Clinical Professor, Department of Urology, New York University, Bellevue Medical Center. Random House, New York, 1950. \$2.95.

This little volume is an effort to explain to the lay reader in simple terms the anatomy, physiology, and diseases of the prostate gland. That most men, and even some women, are interested in the subject cannot be denied, and the author says in his foreword that he presents such information "in a form which any intelligent and interested layman can understand." In an organ the function of which is somewhat obscure even to the average medical man, there may be some doubt as to how fully many of his readers will comprehend even its simple terminology. The book is not intended for the physician, who will discover little or nothing new in its pages, but even he may find in the chapters on functional and infectious diseases information that will enable him to explain more adequately the bizarre symptoms frequently associated with these conditions.

One thing may be definitely said for the book. It is perfectly ethical and scientific, with nothing of the sensational or pornographic. It protests strongly against the nostrums and quackery too often associated with genital disease and brings these problems out into the light. Repeatedly the reader is encouraged to consult his physician, and no encouragement is given to self-diagnosis and self-treatment. Discussion of treatment is too sketchy to make the patient critical of his doctor's methods. The only possible exception is the rather full description of the various techniques of prostatic surgery, the choice of which is really a matter for mature surgical judgment.

On the whole this is a book which may, with possibly certain reservations, be recommended by the physician to the average interested patient with a high average intelligence, with the expectation that he will be able to read for himself something reasonably accurate and informative on the subject.